

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 15 and 17 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Whipple and Examiner Lin at the interview held November 14, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 11 is amended in order to obviate this rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11-13, 15-18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0032251 to Rhoads et al (hereinafter "Rhoads"). The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0149765 to Aldstadt et al. (hereinafter "Aldstadt"). Additionally, the Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads in view of Aldstadt, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0089766 to Needham. The Office Action rejects claims 5, 10, 14 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads in view of Needham. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Office Action asserts that Rhoads teaches the features as positively recited at least in independent claims 1, 15 and 17. However, Rhoads fails to teach the features for the following reasons.

First, Rhoads does not teach receiving and storing on a first medium a plurality of document identifiers, the first medium storing a user identifier identifying a unique user, the

document identifiers and user identifiers stored in a memory, the first medium comprising the memory, as positively recited in the pending claims, and further discussed at least in paragraph [0026]-[0028], and [0032]. In contrast, Rhoads teaches that receiving document identifiers and storing user information are provided on different media, and that user information is not associated with a medium which performs receiving and storing of documents identifiers. For example, a user controls a steganographically imprinted business card including personal information, as discussed in paragraphs [0005] and [0016]. However, receiving and storing of this data is accomplished by generic user computer terminals, as discussed in paragraphs [0026]-[0029], as the business card cannot store or receive data except by steganographic printing. The user terminal is associated with no user information, but instead simply processes user information contained on an external business card.

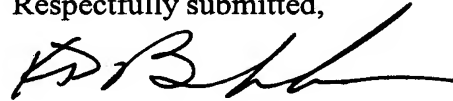
During the course of the personal interview, Applicant's representatives and the Examiners discussed features related to collection of documents relating to documents identifiers, as discussed at least in independent claims 1, 15 and 17. The Examiners asserted that, in their opinion, the subject matter of the original claims may be broadly interpreted to be taught by systems using personal cards. However, this assertion is incorrect. Conventional card-reader systems do not allow for storing of data during user operation. Instead, these systems are hard-coded with static information before use. Therefore, such systems cannot reasonably be considered to teach or to have suggested the subject matter of the pending claims.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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